



UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

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## Extended Campus

College of Humanities & Social Sciences  
Department of History

Hidden Empires

Summer 2022

In Person: 6/7—6/10

Online: 6/11—8/13

Michael Ortiz  
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Ross Hall 3295D  
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### **Office Hours**

I am available by email or phone to arrange appointments. Should you live locally, I am happy to meet you in person.

### **Course Description and Goals**

Hidden empires is a central, enduring theme in world history and a critical issue in our own time. In recent years, debates over empire and neo-colonialism have burst into the American public conscience. The conclusion of the War in Afghanistan sparked controversy and debate, victims of American settler-colonialism increasingly demand equality, and new approaches to history have exposed neo-colonial exploitation across Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Led by expert Michael Ortiz—Assistant Professor of World History and Secondary Education—this graduate course (part of which includes the History Hewitt Summer Institute) will provide hands-on exposure to scholarly content and pedagogical techniques centered on hidden empires in our shared global past.

### **Format**

The heart of this course will be our shared discussion of the assigned reading. Therefore, your active participation is critical and required. The most important assignment in this course is to think through the issues, arguments, and implications of the readings, and to contribute your critical thoughts and insights actively and articulately. As you read, take notes on major themes and arguments and note any disagreements or questions you may have regarding the work. Pay attention to themes or issues that carry over from one week's reading and discussion to another. When you go back over your notes you should, as part of your preparation for class, *jot down in your own words what the historian's main argument is.*

**There are two required books for this course:**

- Daniel Immerwahr, *How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States*
- Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*

## Assignments

**Précis.** To strengthen your ability to summarize and evaluate works of history, you will be writing a 1-page (single-spaced) précis for each of the assigned books. A précis is a concise summary of a book's main arguments and contributions. Précis should be turned in to the discussion board Canvas by the assigned due date listed in the course schedule.

Each précis should contain:

- 1) An introduction, in you which you:
  - Explain the book's scope. [What years and topic(s) does it cover?] and
  - Summarize the book's core argument, either in your own words or by quoting the author directly.
- 2) Two or three body paragraphs in which you:
  - Address the book's structure. How does each chapter contribute to or develop the book's core argument?
  - Explain the primary sources the historian uses to support his or her claims.
- 3) A conclusion, in which you:
  - Evaluate the book's overall effectiveness. [What are its strengths and/or weaknesses? Be specific, and, whenever possible, cite examples from the book to support your critiques.]
  - Assess the book's contribution to the study of religion in American history and/or American history more generally.
- 4) Direct quotes from the book.
  - Use these quotes judiciously, either to reference an author's argument or include a particularly well-written sentence that cannot be paraphrased.

**Historiographical Essay** To develop your skills as a historian, you will also be writing a 10-15-page historiographical essay. I will assist you in putting together a list of at least three books and three journal articles or book chapters on a topic or era of interest to you. Your final paper should be organized and presented as an essay, not merely as an annotated list. It should also contain a bibliographical list of the works discussed (appended at the end), footnotes to any quotations, and the publication dates (in parentheses) of the books mentioned.

Your essay should:

1. Have a clear thesis statement centered on the works' collective significance or the "state" of your field of inquiry.
2. Describe each book's scope, thesis and primary source base.
3. Demonstrate an awareness of how each book relates to rival interpretations, historiographical controversies, and changing views.
4. Provide critical evaluations of the books, as to their merit, usefulness, and historiographical significance. These comments will vary in length.
5. Draw conclusions about the state of historical research and writing on your subject, the areas in need of further study, the questions with which historians of the subject have been concerned, and the way in which answers to these questions have differed or changed.

## Grading

Your grade for History 530 will be calculated out of 175 points

- Two précis will be worth 50 points (25 points each)
- The historiographical essay will be worth 100 points
- Participation will be worth 25 points

## Course Policies

### *Course Grading Scheme*

Your grade will be calculated using the plus/minus system. Specifically, pluses will be given to every grade ending in 7 or above within its percentile; minuses will be given to all grades ending in 3 or below within a percentile. The percentiles are as follows: 90<sup>th</sup>=A, 80<sup>th</sup>=B, 70<sup>th</sup>=C, 60<sup>th</sup>=D, 50<sup>th</sup> and below=F. For example, within the B range, an 80 to an 82 percent overall grade will earn a B-, an 83 to 86 will earn a B, and an 87 to an 89 will earn a B+.

### *Academic Honesty*

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. It is your responsibility to become familiar with UNC's Honor Code and student handbook; the policies and standards listed therein govern this course.

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link <http://www.unco.edu/dos/handbookindex.htm>.

### **Course Schedule (subject to revision)**

\*Note. This course requires full participation in the William E. Hewitt Educators Conference, "Marginalized Voices in World History." This workshop will be held online from June 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. During those 20 hours, students will receive a far-reaching overview of world history. This course will build and expand on the historical content and discussions we begin during the conference. I will be on hand throughout the conference and will arrange times to meet with you to discuss the material and the course\*

#### Week One

June 7-10

- Hewitt Educators Conference, "Hidden Empires."

#### Week Two

June 13-17

- Reading Week.
- Prof. Ortiz available by phone, email, or video chat to discuss the course and your historiographical essays.

#### Week Three

June 20-24

- Reading Week
- Prof. Ortiz available by phone, email, or video chat to discuss the course and your historiographical essays.

#### Week Four

June 27-July 1

- Read and discuss *How to Hide an Empire*
- Online discussion board post (*précis*) due Thursday by 6:30 p.m. Zoom meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday.

## Week Five

June 28-July 2

- Reading Week
- Prof. Ortiz available by phone, email, or video chat to discuss the course and your historiographical essays.
- Begin thinking about, investigating your historiographical essay topic. I am here to help!

## Week Six

July 4-8

- Read and discuss *King Leopold's Ghost*
- Online discussion board post (*précis*) due Thursday by 6:30 p.m. Zoom meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday.
- Discussion of Final Historiographical Topics

## Weeks Seven-Ten

- Complete reading and historiographical essay.
- Prof. Ortiz will be available to assist by email, phone, or Zoom appointment.

**\*Historiographical essays are due via Canvas by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**

## **Disability Resources**

It is the policy and practice of the University of Northern Colorado to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to your inclusion or to an accurate assessment of your achievement (e.g. time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, use of videos without captions), please communicate this with your professor and contact Disability Support Services (DSS) to request accommodations. Office: (970) 351-2289, Michener Library L-80. Students can learn more about the accommodation process at <http://www.unco.edu/disability-support-services/>.

## **Honor Code**

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: *Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility*.

These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

## **UNC's Policies**

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link <http://www.unco.edu/dean-of-students/pdf/student-Code-of-conduct.pdf>.

## **Special Term/Short Course**

Special Term Courses do not meet during a typical semester (begin or end earlier or later), these courses have different add/drop/withdrawal dates. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of these dates. Please refer

to “special term/short course deadlines” from this link: <http://www.unco.edu/registrar/current-students/course-add-drop.aspx>, to learn the dates for this course.

To drop or withdraw, you must contact the Registrar’s Office at 970-351-2231.

### **Requesting Transcripts**

There are two options for requesting transcripts. For an unofficial transcript, on your Student tab in URSA, choose “Unofficial transcript” located under the “Grades” heading. For an official transcript, go to <http://www.unco.edu/registrar/etranscripts.aspx>.